

and their unwavering commitment to cultivate a culture of innovation, these honorees were inducted at Horseshoe Casino, Hammond, on October 26, 2017.

The Society of Innovators of Northwest Indiana was created by Ivy Tech with the goal of highlighting and encouraging innovative individuals and groups within the not-for-profit, public, and private sectors, as well as building a culture of innovation in Northwest Indiana. The Lake County Campus is led by Chancellor R. Louie Gonzalez, Ivy Tech Community College. The importance of innovation in Northwest Indiana, as well as globally, is crucial in today's ever-changing economy.

The fellows selected by the Society of Innovators were chosen for their innovative leadership throughout Northwest Indiana and beyond. Dr. Teresa A. Eineman, Superintendent, Crown Point Community School Corporation, implemented a continuous improvement model that applies proven business practices to education and has led to the overwhelming success of the high performing school district. Norman-David P. Fischer, Chief Engineer, The Fischer Group, invented an energy efficient compressed air desiccant dryer, a unique design that creates energy savings without using plant air for the drying process. The invention has been used at ArcelorMittal, providing over seven million kilowatts of energy savings annually. Chris Mahlmann is the founder of Ideas in Motion Media, which is an on line "good news" company that covers Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties. Today, the company produces four editions and serves approximately 65,000 readers. Michael Schrage, Chairman, President, and CEO of Centier Bank in Merrillville, transformed a small family bank into the largest bank of deposit in Northwest Indiana; as well as Indiana's largest private bank.

The Leonardo da Vinci Accelerating Greatness Award for Team Innovation was presented to the ArcelorMittal Global R&D Center, East Chicago, and its partners in France, along with Burns Harbor Plate, for creating a unique accelerating cooling technology called ACCtec, which greatly improves steel plate production and will make ArcelorMittal more competitive globally. The award was also presented to the Arconic Power and Propulsion La Porte Engineering Team. This group pioneered the manufacturing process for a newly invented single-piece casting for Pratt & Whitney's next generation Pure Power® Geared Turbofan™ jet engine. The casting is nicknamed the "cornerstone" because its implementation laid the foundation for a \$100 million plant expansion. The expansion has captured growing demand for advanced jet engine components and created more than 300 advanced manufacturing jobs since 2015.

The Chanute Prize for Team Innovation was presented to The Hammond Group, Incorporated (HGI). In 2015, HGI completed its cutting-edge Lead Acid Battery Laboratory, which was created to improve battery performance in order to successfully meet the demands from automobile manufacturers and renewable energy markets.

Chenn Q. Zhou, Ph.D. is the recipient of the 2017 Gerald I. Lamkin Fellow for Innovation and Service Award. Dr. Zhou is the founding director of the Steel Manufacturing Simulation and Visualization Consortium established at Purdue University Northwest. She has helped to successfully advance the steel industry by

focusing on new and innovative technologies, including simulation and visualization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these noteworthy, inspiring innovators. The contributions each has made to society here in Northwest Indiana and worldwide are immeasurable and lifelong. For their truly brilliant innovative ideas, projects, and leadership, these recipients are worthy of the highest commendation.

PROCLAMATION FOR THE LYNCH-GAITER FAMILY REUNION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation for the Lynch-Gaiter family reunion:

Whereas, in the mid 1800's in Sylacauga, Alabama, the legacy of the Lynch-Gaiter families began with the story of a Cherokee Indian slave girl who began this family and today her descendants have blessed and shaped our nation; and

Whereas, the Lynch-Gaiter families have produced many well respected citizens, patriachs and matriarchs who have made contributions to our nation. Some of the noted members of the Lynch-Gaiter families are, Cleveland Gaiter (Tuskegee Airman/Decorated War Hero), Felix Gaiter, Sr. (Community leader in Knoxville, TN), Henry Garner (Union President/LGFR in Pittsburgh, PA), Bobby Clayton, Sr. (Short Film Producer), Margaret Gaiter (Community Activist/College Community Board President) and J.W. Garner (Community Activist); and

Whereas, in our beloved Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, we are honored to have members of the Lynch-Gaiter families, especially Ms. Meredith Lilly, one of our most beloved citizens who resides in DeKalb County, Georgia; and

Whereas, family is one of the most honored and cherished institutions in the world, and as you celebrate your lineage, we take pride in knowing that families such as the Lynch-Gaiter families have set aside this time to fellowship with each other, to honor their heritage and to pass along history to each other by gathering from far and wide at this year's family reunion in Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Lynch-Gaiter families in our District; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim July 29, 2017 as Lynch-Gaiter Family Reunion Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 29th day of July, 2017.

RECOGNIZING THE LINCOLN STATION ON THE OPENING OF THEIR RENOVATED DEPOT

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize the Lincoln Depot, in Lincoln,

Illinois, on the opening of their newly renovated Depot building this morning.

In the 1850's, Abraham Lincoln helped citizens and railroads establish a needed rail line through Logan County. Soon after, this town was christened, by its founders, in Lincoln's name, beautifully described by the Looking for Lincoln marker just outside the Depot. Constructed in 1911, the Lincoln Depot enhanced this critical railway stop, essential for commerce and the pioneers of the last century and a half who were looking to explore and develop to the west. With an estimated 450,000 people now traveling through Lincoln and central Illinois annually, the depot will continue to be a vital part of the Midwest travel experience.

Today, the depot is again restored as a beautiful landmark in downtown Lincoln that is crucial to the economy of this community, the students of both Lincoln College and Lincoln Christian University, and the residents of Logan County. Lincoln, and Central Illinois, rely on these very rail lines to connect them to communities and commercial markets throughout the Midwest and across America. The new Lincoln Depot modernizes the previous facility, ensuring improved safety and an enhanced travel experience, including improved on-time performance for Amtrak.

I extend my sincere congratulations to the Lincoln community on the newly renovated Lincoln Station Depot. This renovation will ensure the legacy of the depot and the railway, envisioned by Abraham Lincoln as a catalyst for the future growth of central Illinois, will carry on for generations to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. MURPHY

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Bruce Murphy for his service as president of Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana. Dr. Murphy has spent his career investing in higher education and has tirelessly served as Nicholls's fifth president over the last four years. Throughout his tenure, many universities across the country struggled to attract and retain students, but Nicholls's actually increased enrollment four consecutive semesters. I am most impressed by his efforts to prepare students at Nicholls University for successful integration into the real world that awaits upon graduation. The school's partnership with Fletcher Community College, for example, has resulted in significant progress in workforce development. Aside from his service as president of Nicholls State University, both President Murphy and his wife, Jeanne Murphy, are retired from the U.S. Army, having earned the rank of lieutenant colonel and colonel, respectively. Dr. and Mrs. Murphy generously served on our military academy review board. I am proud that they devoted time in their busy lives to play an active role in the recruitment of young Louisiana leaders to our nation's military service academies. I thank Dr. Murphy for his commitment to excellence at Nicholls, his service to the state of Louisiana, and his service to our nation. My sincerest